

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-05

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 050745Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3083

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LDP FILES CHARGES AGAINST HORIGOME

REF: TOKYO 8783

SUMMARY: LDP JULY 4 FILED CHARGES AGAINST CENTRAL ELECTION
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HORIGOME IN REACTION TO HIS
REMARKS TUESDAY ON IMPROPRIETY OF ROLE OF CORPORATIONS IN UPPER
HOUSE CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

1. LDP, STUNG BY WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF ROLE OF CORPORATIONS
IN CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN, FILED FORMAL CHARGES JULY 4
AGAINST MASAMICHI HORIGOME, ON GROUNDS THAT HIS PRESS COMMENTS
ON SUBJECT TUESDAY (REFTEL) CONSTITUTED OBSTRUCTION OF FREEDOM
OF ELECTION IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC ELECTION LAW. COMPLAINT
WAS FILED WITH TOKYO DISTRICT PROSECUTOR IN NAME OF LDP SEC GEN
TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO, AFTER CONSULTATIONS AMONG PARTY LEADERS
INCLUDING PRIMIN TANAKA.

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2. LDP COMPLAINT SPECIFIED THAT HORIGOME ALLEGATIONS, BASED

ON RUMOR, AND NOT CLEARED WITH COMMISSION, VIOLATED ELECTION LAW WHICH PROHIBITS ABUSE OF POWER BY NATIONAL OR LOCAL OFFICIALS, OR MEMBERS OF COMMISSION, TO OBSTRUCT FREE ELECTION. IN POT-KETTLE ARGUMENT, LDP ALSO NOTED CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY LABOR UNIONS AND RELIGIOUS BODIES.

3. IN SEPARATE STATEMENT TO PRESS HASHIMOTO EXPRESSED SUSPICION THAT Horigome statement came as premeditated part of JSP election strategy. Horigome, who is JSP policy official, told press he confident of correct outcome of court proceedings.

4. JSP statement said that nationwide campaigns by certain corporations common knowledge, and asserted Horigome statement based on truth. JSP called on LDP to withdraw charges.

5. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES CRITICIZED LDP ACTION. DSP described it as QTE authoritarian action UNQTE which reveals how strongly Horigome remarks upset LDP.

6. MEDIA, DIGGING INTO ONLY JUICY ISSUE OF CAMPAIGN, CHARACTERIZED LDP charge as QTE desperate fling UNQTE to refute mounting criticism of enlistment of corporations in LDP campaign cause. ASAHI QUESTIONED LEGAL BASIS FOR LDP CHARGE, AND ASSERTED THAT Horigome acted properly in interest of promoting fair election.

7. COMMENT: LAST MINUTE FLURRY OF CHARGES ON THIS ISSUE NOT LIKELY TO SWAY VOTER COMMITMENTS SIGNIFICANTLY. HOWEVER, SHARP LDP REACTION INDICATES NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDES BUILDING UP AGAINST OPPOSITION WHICH CERTAIN TO ENLIVEN POLITICAL SCENE, INCLUDING POST ELECTION DIET SESSION, FOR SOME TIME TO COME. END COMMENT.
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